

## Senator Davis' Maiden Speech

Senator Jefferson Davis of Arkansas addressed the senate December 11. The Associated Press report follows:

Passionate oratory marked the proceedings of the senate today. Senator Jeff Davis of Arkansas, who when elected declared that he would attack the trusts immediately after he took his seat, fulfilled his promise although he was a few days late in doing so.

The speech was filled with sensational declarations and was given with that vigor for which the Arkansas senator is famous in his own state. Quaint phrasing, pointed denunciation and evidences of intense emotion characterized his remarks. He was given a careful hearing by senators and the galleries were well filled throughout the time he held the floor.

Beginning shortly before 1 o'clock, he spoke for a little more than an hour. At the close of the speech the senate went into executive session and at 2:10 o'clock adjourned.

As he proceeded he showed great emotion and his voice trembled. His words rang with resounding effect throughout the chamber.

Speaking of the annual appropriations for the expenses for the government, amounting to \$900,000,000, he turned to Senator Beveridge and added: "Pile it up on this floor and let my good-looking young friend, the senator from Indiana, start to count it. He would be as old as Methuselah before he could count half of it."

"Everything," declared Senator Davis, "is in a trust except acorns and persimmons."

"Holy writ," he said, "admonishes us to go into the vineyard and work. I have found nothing in the good book that warrants any of us going into the vineyard to corner all the grapes."

"The president," he said, "has taken off the dollar the words 'In God We Trust.' It's time to take it off. I wonder what the grand old party is going to put on the dollar?"

"This panic was started by these trust magnates and stock gamblers in order that they might take from the cotton producers half of their property," he added.

"I am for the under dog, Senator McLaurin," he said, addressing the senator from Mississippi who sat before him. "Whenever you hear of a dog fight just say 'Jeff Davis is for the under dog.'"

He read some statistics from the Standard Oil and, stepping out into the center aisle, stamped his foot and said: "The Standard Oil is the old he-trust of the country. It is the trust that has all the paraphernalia and earmarks of a trust. I dislike the Standard Oil. I hate the smell of coal oil. Petroleum makes me sick. Oh, sir, something ought to be done to curtail the growth of this monster trust—John D. Rockefeller's trust—the great Standard Oil trust."

Senator Davis began by declaring that it was not his purpose to remain in his seat in the senate until his hair shall have grown gray before taking up his work actively in that body. He proposed to present quickly, fearlessly and as intelligently as he might, some of the living, burning questions before the American people. It was for that reason he had determined to speak upon his bill to suppress trusts, pools, combinations and conspiracies.

"I undertake to say," he said, "that if this bill is enacted into a law and faithfully and honestly enforced, trusts will be wiped from the face of the earth and no longer will we feel their grinding and destroying grip on the arteries of trade and commerce."

A domestic corporation found fixing the price of any article would, by his bill, he said, have its charter forfeited, and a foreign corporation guilty of such an act would not be allowed to do business in the United States.

"The trust evil," said Senator Davis, "is a cancerous sore upon the body politic. Just as upon the human body, the only remedy, the only successful treatment is the surgeon's knife. Cut it out by the roots, destroy the virus before the whole body politic is affected and destroyed."

"Congress should not hesitate in its work of destroying the trusts because of any fear of upsetting business," he continued. He spoke of the Sherman anti-trust law. "Has it proven effectual?" he asked. "Has it destroyed a single trust under its operation? Have they not grown strong, defiant and arrogant?"

"Almost for seventeen years the Sherman anti-trust law has been upon our statute books, more than four times as long as it took the

north to wear out the south upon the bloody fields of battle. Nearly seven years of Roosevelt's strenuous term have passed, with all the machinery of the government at his back, with the great power of the chief executive in his hands, yet I ask, will some republican senator upon this floor tell me one trust that ever has been tamed, much less destroyed?"

"Ah, Mr. President, it was stated by the metropolitan press before I entered this august body, flippantly, too, that before I had been in the senate six months the trust magnates would have me feeding out of their hands. I may share crumbs from a Lazarus, but I swear to you today, by every god in the calendar that I shall never eat from the hands of mammon."

"I want to say to you, sir, and to the members of this senate, that you need not lose any sleep about a corporation getting its rights. You need not lose any sleep about unjust discrimination against them. They will take care of themselves. But rather should our solicitude be for the man who bears the burdens of the government."

"This is an age when men have gone mad in their frenzied efforts for the dollar. This is an age when money is placed above men; when gold is placed before God. When we would sell our souls, our government, our all for the bright smile from the god mammon."

"What is money, Mr. President, that it is held so priceless? You can not eat it, you can not wear it. Your shroud has no pocket in it, and St. Peter will not receive it for admission into the golden gates."

"When we look to the leading cause for this great wealth upon the part of these great corporations, and the causes leading to their formation, to the formation of trusts, we are compelled to go no further than republican authority itself and take the sworn statement of Havemeyer, the great sugar king, who has gone to his reward, be it good or bad, who has gone to that land and that clime where St. Peter does not take 'sugar in his' and where money is of no value."

He recalled Havemeyer's statement before the industrial commission that "the tariff is the mother of trusts."

"Under the operation of this system," he said, "fifty-one men in the United States, multimillionaires, if you please, have amassed total fortunes of \$3,295,000,000. Of this John D. Rockefeller, the oil king of the world, leads with \$600,000,000; Andrew Carnegie, the steel king of the world, follows with half of this amount."

The secretary of commerce and labor has calculated, he said, all the property owned by 89,000,000 American citizens is \$107,000,000,000, so that these fifty-one citizens own one-thirty-fifth of the entire wealth of the nation.

"What an alarming concentration of wealth; what an alarming concentration of power," he declared. "In this day and time money is king; money is god; without wealth the doors of opportunity are closed, the doors of society are shut. Yea, even in some instances the doors of the church do not welcome the man in rags and tatters. How shall this condition be changed? How shall this government be saved? One way, and one way only; that is to kill, destroy, annihilate the source of all this evil—the trusts."

"What is needed today by the trust magnates of this union in order to make them respect the law and obey its solemn mandates," he said, "is that they be treated like ordinary felons; that the strong arm of the law be laid against them just as it would be against a horse thief or anyone else charged with crime. Land them in the penitentiary, place felon's stripes, 'the doxology of a misspent life,' upon them, and you will see the trusts are busted and the people will get relief."

"One trust magnate in the penitentiary of the United States, one trust magnate with felon's stripes, one trust magnate as a living example and object lesson that the law is greater than any man, that the law is above and beyond us all, that the law protects the weak and punishes the strong alike, would be the most wholesome example that could be set in this republic today."

He declared that while he is an alarmist, he is not an anarchist or a socialist.

"There is too much gold," he declared; "there is too much glitter; there is too much gloss; there is too much tinsel, and I say, sir, that unless times shall change it will not be long before the American statesmen will be

wearing knee breeches, with brass buckles and powdered wigs, and bowing down to semi-royalty."

Speaking of the great expense of the government, Senator Davis said: "Our president, and I speak in the most respectful terms, besides his salary of \$50,000 a year—and I say that is not excessive—is paid by this congress \$25,000 a year for traveling expenses, and approximately \$113,000 annually for living expenses."

"Ah! Mr. President, this is enormous. This is unreasonable. The president of the United States has five children, I believe. It is true that he should live in accordance with the dignity, with the position, the greatest executive upon the face of the earth; but, Mr. President, I have the president skinned a city block in the matter of family. I have eight children, and it does not take \$113,000 for my living expenses. No, sir. The greatest president that ever lived upon this earth, that was ever inaugurated in this capitol, in my judgment, was 'Old Blue Jeans,' Old Hickory Jackson, who rode his horse to the White House dressed in a suit of blue jeans."

He denounced stock gambling, and said he would do away with gambling in cotton, grain and the necessities of life.

## Washington Letter

Washington, D. C., December 16.—As a fair illustration of the way in which the republicans are playing at cross purposes on the currency question, this may be said: Congressman Burton, he who ran his head against the Tom Johnson stone wall, wrote some time ago a book on currency and finance. Eminent authorities like Mr. Vanderlip, former assistant secretary of the treasury, and Mr. Ridgley, comptroller of the currency, have pronounced it the best book on the subject ever written. Of course that doesn't prove that such is the fact. The book on finance and currency which suits the bankers best, may not be the best book for the people. However let that pass. When Speaker Cannon came to appoint the committee on banking and currency of the house a few days ago he increased its membership by one in order that Mr. Burton might be added and the other members have the benefit of his financial sapience. When Representative Fowler, chairman of that committee, called it together he did not like this apparent reflection upon his own encyclopedic knowledge, so the committee voted to create a sub-committee of five which should draft the currency bill to be reported by the full committee. With the utmost suavity, Chairman Fowler appointed a sub committee leaving Mr. Burton out. So far as constructive work on the committee of banking and currency is concerned, the representative from the Cleveland district might as well be serving on either of the opera bouffe committees "the committee on the disposal of useless documents" or "the committee on ventilation."

Promising isn't it? When even the republican committee on the currency can not get together, what hope is there of the republican house and senate and executives standing shoulder to shoulder?

Speaker Cannon, widely known as "Uncle Joe" is not unlike Senator Foraker in his habit of saying what he thinks without equivocation or evasion. The speaker is a man of force. He has what is perhaps the most magnificent quality any public man may have, namely the ability to think himself right even though all other men think him wrong. In this he is not unlike his particular aversion, the gentleman now inhabiting the White House.

Here is an illustration of the speaker's self confidence. To his office came the other day a delegation which presented him with some handsomely bound resolutions, asking his support for the issuance of a great block of bonds for the purpose of developing the interior waterways of the United States. Just at present Washington is crowded with delegates to a river and harbor convention and orators from Walla Walla, Wash., down to Savannah, Ga., have been preaching, and with good reason, the necessity of developing water communication as a correction for railroad extortions. And even so hardened a railroad man as "Jim" Hill appeared before the convention to urge the development of our inland waterways. Perhaps

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